



Memorandum

TO: HONORABLE MAYOR AND
CITY COUNCIL

FROM: Darryl Von Raesfeld

SUBJECT: SEE BELOW

DATE: June 17, 2009

Approved *Ashwini Kantak for Ed SHIKADA*

Date *6/19/09*

SUBJECT: CITY OF SAN JOSE APPLICATION FOR FEDERAL FUNDS UNDER THE AMERICAN RECOVERY AND REINVESTMENT ACT OF 2009 – ASSISTANCE TO FIREFIGHTERS FIRE STATION CONSTRUCTION GRANT

RECOMMENDATION

Adopt a resolution authorizing the City Manager to submit an Assistance to Firefighters Fire Station Construction Grant application in an amount not to exceed \$15 million dollars as authorized by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 .

OUTCOME

This resolution will allow the City to apply for Assistance to Firefighters Fire Station Construction Grant funding for the construction of two fire stations and to complete deferred repairs on 24 existing fire stations. Fire station construction projects would consist of: the construction of a new fire station at the corner of Lincoln and Curtner Avenues (proposed Fire Station 37), the replacement of Fire Station 22 (6461 Bose Lane), and the repairs to 24 fire stations. Proposed projects would address the Federal strategies of stimulating the economy and the effective protection of the health and safety of the public and their emergency response personnel with respect to fire and all other hazards. These objectives are consistent with existing City and fire department service objectives and policies.

BACKGROUND

On June 10th, 2009, the Department of Homeland Security, Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), opened the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (Recovery Act) Assistance to Firefighters Fire Station Construction Grants (SCG) application process. The Recovery Act of 2009 provided \$210,000,000 to fund the construction and modification of fire stations. The program is administered by the Assistance to Firefighters Program Office under

FEMA's Grant Programs Directorate and the SCG grants will be awarded directly to the fire departments on a competitive basis.

ANALYSIS

Department of Homeland Security guidance documents for the Assistance to Firefighters Fire Station Construction Grant application include the following key elements to guide the application process:

1. Funding opportunity description
2. Award information
3. Eligibility information
4. Application and submission information
5. Application review and evaluation process
6. Award administration information.

Funding Opportunity Description

The Funding Opportunity Description section outlines funding priorities, which established project funding priorities, staff believes the City application aligns well with grant's highest consideration criteria for projects being proposed on land that is already owned by the City. While the type of project (i.e., new versus reconstruction/modification of existing structures) is not considered, the purpose of the construction or modification will have bearing on the award determination. Two equally high priorities are noted:

1. Replacement of unsafe or uninhabitable structures
2. Expanding fire protection coverage to meet increased service demand.

Award Information

Award Information makes specific reference to:

- Award period of performance for the grant of 36 months from the date of the reward
- Specific funding parameters which directs DHS to limit funding for any one grant to \$15.0 million per award. to maximize the benefit of stimulus funding, the DHS will also impose a \$5.0 million funding limitation on each project within an application.
- DHS anticipates it will receive between 5,000 and 10,000 applications and award approximately 100 grants.

Eligibility Information

- Eligibility is limited to non-federal fire departments, which are defined as an agency or organization having a formally recognized arrangement with State, territory, local or tribal authority to provide fire suppression to a population within a fixed geographical area.
- Cost sharing provisions state that while there are no cost share requirement, if an applicant pledges to contribute toward a project in their application, they are required to contribute to the final costs of the project. In the event the City is awarded the grant, staff will return to Council with specific project recommendations for Council action.

Application and Submission Information

- The Automated grant application, accessible from the Assistance to Firefighters Grants Website, will be used to submit the grant application.
- Applications for the FY 2009 grants will be accepted from June 8, 2009 to July 10, 2009, 5:00 pm Eastern Time.
- Project period will be 36 months from the date of award.
- Only one grant application for assistance may be submitted. However, the application can include any number of projects regardless of whether the projects are the construction of new fire stations or modifications to existing stations.

Application Review and Evaluation Process Information

Applications most consistent with the grant funding priorities will score higher than applications that are inconsistent with the priorities. Panelist will evaluate and score the following elements:

- Project description
- Financial need
- Cost/benefit
- Effect on daily operations

The fire department's use of Standards of Response Cover for resource planning and deployment decisions and its recent work on updating its 2000 Strategic Plan will be used to support the response to these required elements.

Anticipated Announcement and Award Dates: The DHS will commence the panel review process within 60 days of the end of the application period. Award decisions for the FY 2009 Fire Station Construction program will be completed on or before September 30, 2010.

Award Administration

Once the second of a two tiered process is complete, the applications will be ranked according to the average score awarded by the review panel. The ranking will be summarized in a Technical Report prepared by the AFG Program Office. The AFG Program Office then makes award recommendations to the grants management specialists in the Grants Management Division of the Grants Programs Directorate.

Fire Station Construction award recipients (grantees) must agree to comply with the accountability and transparency requirements as stipulated by the Recovery Act.

Monitoring: Grants recipients' projects will be monitored periodically by DHS staff, both programmatically and financially, to ensure the project goals, objectives, performance requirements, timelines, milestones completion, budgets and other related criteria are met.

Grant Closeout Process: Within 90 days after the end of the period of performance, grantee must submit a final closeout report detailing all accomplishments throughout the project.

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Proposed Projects

The fire department is proposing the following projects based on the fire station location and operational requirements recommendations presented in its 2000 Strategic Plan. Furthermore, the department owns the necessary property to construct each. Fire station improvements were identified and coordinated with the City's General Service Department. The proposed projects consist of:

Priority 1: Construction of a new fire station near the corner of Lincoln and Curtner Avenues

Voters approved the use of portion of parkland adjacent to the Willows Senior Center on November of 2008. Current response time analysis and recommendations from the 2000 Strategic Plan support the construction of the fire station at this location.

Priority 2: Fire station improvements that meet eligibility requirements

The fire department has identified 24 stations in need of immediate repair or modifications to improve the health and safety of firefighters, as well as improving the efficiency and sustainability of operations in the event a wide-area, man-made, or natural disaster were to occur.

Priority 3: Demolition and reconstruction of Station 22

Station 22 is one of the oldest and smallest fire stations of the department's station inventory. It does not adequately address gender privacy issues, is too small to optimize the deployment of resources, and needs to be larger to support existing and future growth within the Almaden Valley.

EVALUATION AND FOLLOW-UP

If the grant application is successful, the grant agreement along with any associated appropriation actions will be brought forward for Council approval. It is anticipated that CEQA and NEPA clearances will be completed at that time as well.

Once funding has been allocated, quarterly reports that provide information on the status of the project activities and expenditures will be posted on the City's website.

City staff are also monitoring all available American Resource and Recovery Act allocations for additional grant and loan opportunities that would advance the City's goals.

POLICY ALTERNATIVES

In reaching the recommendation stated above, the following alternatives were also considered:

Alternative 1: Use funding on different fire stations than recommended

Pros: In addition to the recommended fire station locations for new construction, other areas within the City could also benefit from the construction of new or relocated facilities. Construction of fire stations in these locations would also address some of the grant program's listed priorities.

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Cons: Alternative locations for fire station construction do not meet as many of the listed grant priorities (i.e., existing land, improved service levels, improve mutual aid capabilities, etc.) and thus would not be as competitive. Furthermore, service level improvements anticipated from the construction of a fire station at Lincoln and Curtner and replacement of Fire Station 22 would not be as significant in comparison to the alternatives.

Reason for not recommending: The fire department believes the recommended fire stations create the greatest benefit to the community while, at the same time, addressing the greatest number of SCG priorities.

PUBLIC OUTREACH/INTEREST

- ☐ **Criterion 1:** Requires Council action on the use of public funds equal to \$1 million or greater. (Required: Website Posting)
- ☐ **Criterion 2:** Adoption of a new or revised policy that may have implications for public health, safety, quality of life, or financial/economic vitality of the City. **(Required: E-mail and Website Posting)**
- ☐ **Criterion 3:** Consideration of proposed changes to service delivery, programs, staffing that may have impacts to community services and have been identified by staff, Council or a Community group that requires special outreach. **(Required: E-mail, Website Posting, Community Meetings, Notice in appropriate**

This report does not meet any of the criteria above.

COORDINATION

This report has been coordinated with the offices of the City Manager, City Attorney, Public Works and the City Auditor.

CEQA

Not a project


DARRYL VON RAESFELD
Fire Chief

For additional information on this report, contact Geoff Cady, Acting Deputy Director at 408-612-5939.